(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government to apprehend these boats;

(c) whether the coast-guard of most of the East Mediterranean, Persian Gulf and Red Sea Region have been issued an alert to watch out for vessels attempting to smuggle explosives to India; and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government to prevent influx of arms and explosives to the country ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN) : (a) There is no specific information in this regard.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Government have alerted all State Governments as well as the concerned Central Agencies to enforce enhanced surveillance in a fully integrated manner, to counter smuggling activities.

Threat to dissolve Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council

323. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Gorkha National Liberation Front (GNLF) has threatened to dissolve the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council and revive the demand for Gorkhaland; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN) : (a) and (b) The Gorkha National Liberation Front (GNLF) had recently threatened to launch an agitation for a separate State of Gorkhaland and rescind the concept of the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council However, the Govt. of West Bengal and Shri Subash Ghisingh, President of the GNFL, are holding negotiations for resolving the problem.

Smugglers/Drug Mafias Instrumental in Bombay Blasts

324. DR. SANJAYA SINH :

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that smugglers from outside India and Drug Mafias have a major role in the recent Bombay blasts as per the news-item entitled "Was it smuggled Wrath", which appeared in the Hindustan Times, dated the 17th March, 1993;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what action Government have taken/propose to take in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN) : (a) to (c) While the investigations are continuing the results of the inquiries so far clearly indicate that the conspiracy has been hatched by Pakistan in conjunction with some of the known smugglers and members of the underworld, who were responsible for procurement of sizeable quantities of explosives as well as arms and ammunitions. With a view to prevent recurrence of similar incidents, the Government have alerted all State Governments as well as the concerend Central Agencies to enforce enhanced surveillance in a fully integrated manner, to counter smuggling activities.

Fire at Lal Chowk, Srinagar

325. SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI :

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimate of loss of life and property as a result of fire at Lal Chowk, Srinagar on April 10, 1993;

(b) whether the cause of fire has been ascertained, if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that after the fire the BSF vacated the building at Lal Chowk where it was stationed and the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether it is a fact that terrorists have of late stepped up their activities of arson and murder in Srinagar town and elsewhere in the valley and if so, what steps have been taken by Government to counter the menace ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN) : (a) to (c) In the incident that took place in Lal Chowk area of Srinagar on 10th April 1993, a few buildings housing around 200 shops and 50 residences are reported to have been damaged and four persons are reported to have died. The State Govt. has ordered an enquiry to be conducted by the Divisional Commissioner to ascertain the facts of this incident and causes thereof.

(d) It is a fact that militants have recently stepped up their activities. It has been seen that as a part of their strategy whenever pressure against them is mounted and efforts to re-commence the political process are initiated, the militants increase the level of violence. However, security in the State, especially in vulnerable areas, has been stepped up to deal with and contain the terrorist violence, effectively.

Law and Order situation in Delhi

326. SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH :

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI :

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Law and Order situation has deteriorated in the Union Territory of Delhi recently because of the incidents of kidnapping, looting, murders, rapes, suicides and bank robberies;

(b) the number of cases of kidnapping, rioting and bank robberies separately during the past six months as compared with the comparative figures in the corresponding year;

(c) the number of kidnapping cases where ransom has been paid by the relatives and the amount thereof and the number of culprits that have been arrested in connection with the kidnappings; and

(d) what action has been taken by Government to check such incidents ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. M. SAYEED) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The number of cases of kidnapping, rioting and bank robberies reported in Delhi during the period from 1-10-92 to 31-3-93 and its corresponding period from 1-10-91 to 31-3-92 is as under :—

Crime Head	1-10-92 to 31-3-93	1-10-91 to 31-3-92
Kidnapping	337	336
Rioting	160	158
Bank Robberies	1	–

(c) No case has been reported during the aforesaid periods in which ransom was paid. 150 person were arrested during the period from 1-10-92 to 31-3-93 and 157 persons during the period from 1-10-91 to 31-3-92.

(d) The steps taken by the Govt. to control law and order situation include increased patrolling; posting of pickets at strategic points; strengthening of intelligence; frequent raids at the hideouts of criminals; increased surveillance; coordination meetings